

Abstract:

The invention relates to the identification and isolation of polynucleotide molecules encoding a new class of protein insecticidal toxins which are produced by bacteria from the genera *Xenorhabdus* and *Photorhabdus*. The polynucleotide molecules may be incorporated into, for example, insect-specific viruses (including entomopox and nuclear polyhedrosis viruses), bacteria (including *Gracilicutes*, *Firmicutes*, *Tenericutes* and *Mendosicutes*), protozoa, yeast and plants for control of pest insects.